An international team of investigators led by Dana-Farber’s Wendy Garrett, MD, PhD, and Matthew Meyerson, MD, PhD, has won a Grand Challenge award from Cancer Research UK to tackle the complex issues of how the intestinal microbiome—the mix of helpful and harmful micro-organisms that reside in the colon—influence colorectal cancer development and treatment.

The team will receive up to $25 million (20 million British pounds) over five years from the publicly funded research and awareness charity based in the United Kingdom. “Grand Challenge is intended to transform cancer research by providing the best teams with the freedom to try novel approaches, at scale,” says Rick Klausner, MD, chair of Cancer Research UK’s Grand Challenge Advisory Panel that selected this round of Grand Challenge recipients. “We want to drive bold, innovative solutions to the toughest challenges in cancer through global collaborations that bring together diverse expertise in a way that is not already happening.”

The team led by Garrett and Meyerson includes 14 investigators based in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, the Netherlands, and Spain. Other Dana-Farber members of the team are Marios Giannakis, MD, PhD, and Kimmie Ng, MD.

Colorectal cancer is estimated to be the third most common cancer diagnosed in both men and women in the U.S. in 2018, and in recent years there has been an increase in cases seen in younger adults. The team’s objective is to understand the difference between a healthy microbiome and a microbiome associated with cancer and to find ways to manipulate this collection of microorganisms to better prevent and treat cancer.

“The role of the cancer microbiota remains one of the big mysteries in cancer biology,” explains Meyerson. “We are excited that our proposal will be supported by Cancer Research UK’s Grand Challenge. It will enable our team to transform understanding of how the colon cancer microbiome influences cancer growth, diagnosis, and response to treatment.

“Microbiome research has already revealed a range of unexpected findings,” Meyerson adds. “With new genomic technologies, we can map the microbiome in incredible detail, so now is the right time to be investigating this phenomenon in cancer.”

Garrett studies the interplay between the gastrointestinal immune system and the gut microbiota in health, inflammatory bowel disease, and colorectal cancer.

“The colon is the most densely populated microbial environment on the planet,” she says. “We’ve assembled a global team with a lifelong interest in the microbiome and its huge effect on human health. This is an enormous undertaking. It is indeed a grand challenge and we have been given a fantastic gift, and with that great gift comes an enormous responsibility to make a difference for colorectal cancer patients.”

Dana-Farber’s Matthew Meyerson, MD, PhD, and Wendy Garrett, MD, PhD, are leading an international team of investigators whose goal is to transform understanding of how the intestinal microbiome contributes to the growth, diagnosis, and treatment of colon cancer, the third most common cancer in the U.S., thanks to a $25 million Grand Challenge award from Cancer Research UK.
Dear Friends,

As I continue to immerse myself in all things Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund, I am deeply impressed by many unique aspects of the Institute. For example, while we are renowned for our scientific expertise, passionate people are at the core of everything we do—from the researchers driving groundbreaking discoveries and clinicians delivering compassionate care, to the patients and families whose lives we strive to improve, and to you, our generous donors, who do so much to make our work possible.

One such steadfast donor is Marlin Miller Jr., who I learned has for many years supported landmark studies by Margaret Shipp, MD, into the immune system and Hodgkin lymphoma. This research led to FDA approval of novel treatments for the disease, and Mr. Miller recently commemorated this partnership with a gift of $2.5 million to name the Douglas S. Miller Chair in Hodgkin Lymphoma at Dana-Farber in memory of his son, with Dr. Shipp as the inaugural chair holder.

I am also amazed to find that, in addition to a deep local and regional base of support, Dana-Farber has garnered a broad national and international community of supporters whose generosity provides critical funding for a vast array of research projects, patient assistance funds, institute initiatives, and capital projects and enhancements. We are fortunate to have donors and grateful patient families who are supporting Dana-Farber from as far away as Switzerland, Canada, and Beijing. And as you saw on page 1, we recently received a tremendous commitment of $25 million from Cancer Research UK, a cancer charity based in the United Kingdom. Dana-Farber researchers were selected in a highly competitive process to lead an international team exploring the effect of intestinal microorganisms on colorectal cancer and its potential treatment. This is the first grant we have received from Cancer Research UK and the largest from a foundation outside the U.S.

Having survived my first New England winter, I am happy to finally say “good-bye” to freezing temperatures and say “hello” to summer and our busy season of Dana-Farber and Jimmy Fund events. Among the first of these was the 30th annual Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge in April. More than 500 Dana-Farber team members representing 36 states and six countries ran the Fabled Boston Marathon® to raise more than $58.8 million as of race day, to advance basic research at Dana-Farber. Over the coming months, dedicated supporters across the country will hold more than 750 events and raise millions of dollars to support the Institute.

As you embark on your summer activities and travels, keep an eye out for Dana-Farber and Jimmy Fund events near you, and join the fun! And if you are inspired by the stories you see in these pages, I hope you will take a copy of Impact with you and help us spread our story far and wide. On behalf of the entire Dana-Farber community, thank you for your passion and generosity.

Sincerely,

Melany N. Duval
Senior Vice President, Chief Philanthropy Officer

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**Update on Federal Funding at Dana-Farber**

Scientists identify genes tied to increased risk of ovarian cancer

A team of researchers led by Dana-Farber Cancer Institute have identified 34 new genes that are associated with an increased risk for developing earliest-stage ovarian cancer. The findings, published in the journal Nature Genetics, will both help identify women who are at highest risk of developing ovarian cancer, and pave the way for identifying new therapies that can target these specific genes.

The collaborative study was co-led by Alexander Gusev, PhD, a cancer genetics researcher in the Division of Population Sciences at Dana-Farber, and colleagues at Cedars-Sinai and the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Currently, there are no effective screening tests for ovarian cancer and the disease is notorious for presenting in later stages when survival rates are poor. However, if ovarian cancer is caught early, survival rates increase dramatically, underscoring the need to identify those who may be at risk for developing the disease.

The study by Gusev and colleagues builds on previous research of large-scale genetic data gathered over more than a decade by the Ovarian Cancer Association Consortium. Those researchers compared the genetic profiles of about 25,000 women with ovarian cancer and 45,000 women without the disease, and found more than 30 regions in the genome that are associated with ovarian cancer.

“One novelty of this work is that we looked at risk genetic variants that operate through alternative splicing rather than just the total abundance of a gene, which led us to possible gene targets that can be identified,” explained Gusev. “If these risk mechanisms really operate through splicing, that also opens up new drug-target opportunities.”

The idea of combing through large amounts of data to establish which specific genes drive ovarian cancer development may seem simple, but there are thousands of possible gene targets that can be affected by numerous mechanisms, so putting the pieces together is a huge computational and statistical effort.

The study discovered that in women at greatest risk of ovarian cancer because of their genetic blueprint, “there is an interplay between their genetics and specific genes that drive the very earliest stages of cancer development,” the researchers said.

To help identify the specific genes involved, the team compared the large-scale genetic data from the Ovarian Cancer Association Consortium with a different data type that shows the mutations that disrupt the genes in ovarian and other tissues. By putting these two pieces of information together, the researchers were able to distinguish what genes in the genomes are actually the risk genes. Through this computational technique, the team identified 34 genes that are associated with an increased risk for developing ovarian cancer.

The study was funded by National Institutes of Health awards, including a R21 award under grant number CA220078/01, a U19 award under grant numbers CA207456, CA204954, and in part by the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance Program, among additional NIH and other awards.

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The Jimmy Fund

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Impact | Summer 2019
The 123rd running of the Boston Marathon® on April 15 marked a very special milestone for the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge (DFMC): three decades of raising critical funds for the Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research. And with DFMC’s 30th season came spectacular fundraising of more than $5.8 million as of race day.

More than 500 Dana-Farber team members hit the historic Boston Marathon route, along with over 27,000 other runners. The iconic race brings hundreds of thousands to Boston each spring to watch runners from all over the world make their way from Hopkinton to the finish line in Boston’s Copley Square.

The DFMC roster included runners from 36 states and six countries. Team members dotted the 26.2-mile route in their red and white Boston cityscape singlets, a design that has become a hallmark of the DFMC team. For months leading up to the race, runners trained and fundraised, all with the aim of supporting groundbreaking research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute through the Claudia Adams Barr Program.

The Claudia Adams Barr Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research was established in 1987 by Dana-Farber Trustees Delores Barr Weaver and her husband, Wayne, in memory of her mother.

In the 30 seasons of DFMC, the team has raised more than $98 million and counting to support the program. Since its inception, the program has been a cornerstone of innovative, early stage cancer research at Dana-Farber, and continues to accelerate major scientific advances.

A Year of Milestones
This year marked both the 30th running of DFMC itself and also major milestone years for many of the program’s most dedicated participants.

Truly there every step of the way, Brian Herr ran his 30th race as part of the Dana-Farber team. The only runner to have participated in DFMC every year since its inception, Herr says the significant scientific advances since the inaugural DFMC in 1990 have kept him motivated for the past three decades.

“It’s been the honor of a lifetime participating in the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge and supporting the amazing work of so many dedicated scientists,” said Herr. “Over the years, I have seen firsthand the advances made in cancer research, and I am convinced we will reach our goal of a world without cancer soon!”

For Jerry Abdelnour, the 2019 season marked two decades of DFMC. Like many DFMC runners, Abdelnour says his marathon success has been driven by his network of supporters.

“A newcomer, the first marathon, was hooked,” said Abdelnour, who has raised over $500,000 since his first run with DFMC. “Since that first marathon, I must credit my family and friends for helping me achieve such a humbling sum of money to support innovative cancer research.”

Another DFMC runner to hit the 20-year achievement, Lisa Marks, says her passion for the team’s mission keeps her coming back each year.

“I can’t imagine not running for the DFMC team,” said Marks. “Cancer affects far too many people, so until cancer is a thing of the past, I will continue to be part of this incredible team that has become a family.”

Thank you for supporting Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund!
The AMRF model is a revolutionary approach to medical research. It is based on the premise of open and highly integrated collaboration among outstanding investigators who participate in goal-directed basic and clinical research to prevent, reduce, or eliminate disabling and life-threatening illnesses. Kenneth Anderson, MD, Benjamin Ebert, MD, PhD, and Irene Ghobrial, MD, are studying ways to prevent precursor conditions from progressing to multiple myeloma. The disease almost always progresses from monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS) or smoldering multiple myeloma (SMM).

“This grant enables Ken, Irene, and me to study the genetic, epigenomic, and microenvironmental changes that affect progression from these precursor conditions to multiple myeloma,” said Ebert, chair of Medical Oncology at Dana-Farber and the George P. Canellos, MD, and Jean S. Canellos Professor of Medicine. “We are grateful for the Adelson Medical Research Foundation’s support of this important work, which we hope will delay or prevent progression to myeloma.”

Anderson, director of the Jerome Lipper Multiple Myeloma Center and Lelow Institute for Myeloma Therapeutics and the Kraft Family Professor of Medicine, is studying how combination approaches can overcome the immunosuppressive bone marrow microenvironment (the cells and molecules that surround and support tumors) and prevent progression of SMM to overt myeloma.

In 2014, Ebert and his colleagues discovered that mutations that are common in blood cancers are also found in the blood of healthy individuals, and that these pre-malignant mutations are associated with an increased risk of hematologic malignancy as people age. They called this phenomenon clonal hematopoiesis of indeterminate potential, or CHIP.

“The collaboration in multiple myeloma research among Drs. Anderson, Ebert, and Ghobrial at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and their other AMRF-funded colleagues at MD Anderson Cancer Center, Massachusetts General Hospital, and the University of Southern California will bring new insights to this challenging area of cancer research,” said Dr. Miriam Adelson, trustee and executive director of AMRF. “It’s an honor to bring together some of the world’s most distinguished scientists and support them in an open collaboration.”

AMRF has had a longstanding partnership with Dana-Farber including funding an ovarian cancer collaboration with George Demetris, MD, director of the Center for Sarcoma and Bone Oncology and the Quick Family Chair in Medical Oncology.

Ovarian cancer early detection gets a boost from Tina’s Wish

Tina’s Wish has continued its support of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute through a $200,000 grant to advance early detection of ovarian cancer research led by Dipanjan Chowdhury, PhD. Through a previous Tina’s Wish award, Chowdhury found that microRNA signatures in blood serum were successful in identifying malignant ovarian carcinomas, one of the most lethal gynecologic cancers. With this renewed funding, his team will analyze whether these signatures can help determine risk levels in individuals with a genetic predisposition to the disease.

There are currently 11 inherited genes that identify those at high risk of ovarian cancer, but these are present in just 20 percent of cases. Within this population, there is no way to determine who is at higher risk of developing the disease. Chowdhury hopes his serum microRNA signatures will be effective in identifying risk levels and detecting early disease in women who have a family history of ovarian cancer but may not have genetic markers. “Many women with ovarian cancer are diagnosed late, with a bleak prognosis,” says Amy Kyle, Esq., board chair of Tina’s Wish, Dana-Farber Trustee, and partner at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius. “Dr. Chowdhury’s efforts to effectively determine risk levels and detect early disease are vital in improving diagnoses and outcomes, which is our top priority.”

Tina’s Wish was founded in memory of the Honorable Tina Brozman, who was diagnosed with ovarian cancer at a late stage. Tina’s Wish also recently funded Dana-Farber’s Jarrod Marto, PhD, who is working to identify a biomarker for early stage cancers.

“Dr. Chowdhury’s efforts to effectively determine risk levels are vital in improving diagnoses and outcomes, which is our top priority.”

— AMY KYLE, Esq., Tina’s Wish

Adelson Medical Research Foundation grant funds three investigators to accelerate multiple myeloma research

The Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson Medical Research Foundation (AMRF) has awarded $4.5 million to three Dana-Farber researchers to pursue novel interventions in multiple myeloma.

AMRF has supported Dana-Farber researchers via its multidisciplinary, multi-organization model since 2007. The AMRF model is a revolutionary approach to medical research. It is based on the premise of open and highly integrated collaboration among outstanding investigators who participate in goal-directed basic and clinical research to prevent, reduce, or eliminate disabling and life-threatening illnesses.

Kenneth Anderson, MD, Benjamin Ebert, MD, PhD, and Irene Ghobrial, MD, are studying ways to prevent precursor conditions from progressing to multiple myeloma. The disease almost always progresses from monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS) or smoldering multiple myeloma (SMM).

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Gift expands Cancer Care Equity Program’s reach

Christopher Lathan, MD, MS, MPH, is on a mission to eliminate cancer care disparities in the United States. Despite advances in diagnosis and treatment, not everyone in Boston has access to quality care, and for individuals at elevated cancer risk, this can dramatically affect patient outcomes. Led by Lathan, the Cancer Care Equity Program (CCEP) aims to broaden access to vulnerable patient populations through community partnerships, and publishes research on its interventions to narrow the health care gap in Boston. In partnership with the Whittier Street Health Center and the Dimock Center in Roxbury, Mass., the CCEP team provides cancer screenings, preventive education, and, for those who require oncology treatment, a patient navigator who helps address any potential barriers to timely care, such as transportation and insurance. Since launching the CCEP in 2012, Lathan has been frequently contacted by cancer centers across the U.S. seeking to replicate this model. “Philanthropy has played a critical role in the Cancer Care Equity Program’s success,” said Lathan. “Christine’s generous support will be instrumental in expanding our model to other health centers in Massachusetts.”

With a generous $100,000 gift from Christine Brown, Lathan can work with Dana-Farber’s Community Benefits office to expand CCEP as a pilot at other federally qualified health centers in the Boston area. Brown’s philanthropic focus has always been on underserved populations—globally, through previous gifts to support Dana-Farber’s Center for Global Cancer Medicine in Haiti and Rwanda, and now locally, through the CCEP.

“Philanthropy has played a critical role in the Cancer Care Equity Program’s success,” said Lathan. “Christine’s generous support will be instrumental in expanding our model to other health centers in Massachusetts.”

Khimanis’ fund will advance pediatric clinical trials

The Fars and Ahad Khimani Fund is fueling cutting-edge pediatric cancer research under the direction of Steven DuBois, MD, MS, director of pediatric experimental therapeutics at Dana-Farber. Riaz and Shazia Khimani generously established the fund with a $100,000 gift and named it after their sons.

Riaz, a successful entrepreneur, has a strong commitment to philanthropy. Two close connections inspired him to make a gift to Dana-Farber.

A child in the Khimanis’ adopted hometown of Dubai, UAE, was diagnosed with advanced leukemia. Riaz’s brother, Anis Khimani, PhD, had pursued his post-doctorate at Dana-Farber and Harvard Medical School in the 1990s and suggested the boy’s family seek treatment here. Riaz donated a large sum and rallied community support for the boy and his family to travel to Boston and be treated at Dana-Farber. The boy is now doing well.

“This personal experience and the Institute’s affiliation with Harvard encouraged me to focus on Dana-Farber as part of our corporate social responsibility,” Riaz said. “We want the gift to benefit children, as they are our promise for a better future and a better world.” The Khimanis’ fund will advance a promising clinical trial.

“With support from the Khimanis, our clinical trial seeks to identify circulating tumor DNA in the blood of patients with Ewing sarcoma and osteosarcoma, two of the most challenging pediatric solid cancers,” DuBois said. “This testing is less-invasive than biopsy and we believe will provide a more accurate look at how tumors progress during treatment, with the goal of one day altering treatments to improve cure rates.”

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Brock Holt named Jimmy Fund Captain for 2019

Boston Red Sox utility player Brock Holt returns to his role of Jimmy Fund Captain for the fifth consecutive year in 2019, serving as a Dana-Farber ambassador to help raise awareness about the need for funding and to support Jimmy Fund events and programs. Holt’s compassion for the mission shines through in his frequent visits with patients at the Institute as well as in his dedication to special events and programming designed to lift patients’ spirits throughout the year. Among these events is the Jimmy Fund Clinic trip to Florida to cheer on the Boston Red Sox during Spring Training, an annual outreach event that is a highlight for patients and players. Above, Holt enjoys the beautiful Florida weather with Ambar, a patient in Dana-Farber’s Jimmy Fund Clinic.

10% of all designated gifts supports our Faculty Research Fund to advance Dana-Farber’s research mission

SUMMER 2019 | Impact 5
Susan G. Komen partners with Dana-Farber to advance research into immunotherapy in breast cancer treatment

Committed to transforming how the world treats and talks about breast cancer, Susan G. Komen® has been a steadfast supporter of the research conducted at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute since 1995. This ongoing partnership inspires physician-scientists in the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers to investigate new ways to provide the most personalized treatment options to meet the unique needs of women.

In the past year, Susan G. Komen awarded grants exceeding $1.7 million to Dana-Farber investigators. This includes a Leadership Grant of $600,000 to Elizabeth Mittendorf, MD, PhD, director of the Breast Immuno-Oncology Program and co-director of the Breast Cancer Clinical Research Program at Dana-Farber. With funding from Susan G. Komen, Mittendorf will investigate the effect of adjuvant immunotherapy in patients with HER2-positive breast cancer, seeking to discover how this drug class may improve the current standard of care.

“Immunotherapy has been quite successful in treating other solid tumors, and there is significant interest in exploring its use as part of optimal treatment of breast cancer,” said Mittendorf. “I’m grateful for Komen’s support of this project, which has the potential to inform the design of future clinical trials that incorporate immunotherapeutic agents rationally in combination with standard therapy.”

Susan G. Komen has also awarded two Career Catalyst Research Grants to Shom Goel, MD, PhD, and Jennifer Guerriero, PhD, director of the Breast Immunology Laboratory at Dana-Farber.

As a recipient of this grant, which is awarded to promising breast cancer researchers who are in the early stages of their careers, Goel is studying a new class of drugs called CDK4/6 inhibitors that block the effects of estrogen and prevent cancer cells from dividing. While clinical trials have shown that using hormonal therapy plus a CDK4/6 inhibitor controls tumor growth for longer than hormonal therapy alone, estrogen receptor-positive (ER+) tumors can become resistant to the drug.

“CDK4/6 inhibitor resistance in breast cancer is uncharted territory,” said Goel. “Approximately 70 percent of breast cancers are ER+, yet we have no strategies to address CDK4/6 inhibitor resistance in the clinic. I am pleased to partner with Susan G. Komen in this venture—one I hope will identify the translational potential of this new drug class and positively impact the lives of breast cancer patients in years to come.”

In addition, Ann Partridge, MD, MPH, founder and director of the Program for Young Women with Breast Cancer and director of the Adult Survivorship Program at Dana-Farber, was re-awarded a Leadership Grant from Susan G. Komen, which she will use to further explore the nuances of breast cancer in young women from both a psychosocial and biological perspective.

“An Enchanted Evening” of delicious dishes at Chefs for Jimmy

More than 1,000 food aficionados gathered at Chez Josef in Agawam, Mass., on January 25 for an evening of culinary delight at the 29th annual Chefs for Jimmy event. The benefit, themed “An Enchanted Evening,” was held in honor of the late Neal Webber and Stan Winer, longtime supporters of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Jimmy Fund. Guests feasted on fare generously provided by 30 of Western New England’s premier chefs, restaurateurs, and caterers. The event raised $100,000 for cancer care and research in 2019 and has raised over $1.8 million since its inception.

Chefs for Jimmy was created by Co-chair and Founder Michael Katz, who was inspired by his father's treatment for leukemia at Dana-Farber. “The 29th year of Chefs for Jimmy was a huge success,” said Katz. “All of the top restaurants participate—it’s wonderful. They donate their time, food, and their chefs, making it a very upscale evening in terms of quality for our guests, worthy of the top-quality cancer research and care at Dana-Farber.”

Presented by Bayer

JULY 21, 2019
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ADULTS: $35 | KIDS: $15
1. 3.1-mile 5K or 0.5-mile Fun Run
2. JimmyFund5K.org

Staff from The Chandler Steakhouse, which helped Chefs for Jimmy raise $100,000 in January.
Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy brings together hundreds of the country’s leading immunologists at top cancer research institutions, all dedicated to a single mission: harnessing the power of the immune system to fight—and cure—cancer. For the past two years, Dana-Farber and the Parker Institute have collaborated in close partnership, working with researchers in a variety of ways to empower them to pursue their boldest research ambitions. The Parker Institute’s ongoing support has accelerated large-scale initiatives to deliver new immunotherapies to patients.

The Parker Institute recently awarded nearly $500,000 to fund three different pilot projects at Dana-Farber led by David Barbie, MD, Meromit Singer, PhD, and Kai Wucherpfennig, MD, PhD, chair of Cancer Immunology and Virology and director of the Center for Cancer Immunotherapy Research at Dana-Farber. Barbie will direct his funds toward building a three-dimensional tumor model that will help to more precisely predict treatment responses to immunotherapy and combination therapies in non-small cell lung cancer. This model could ultimately have broad implications for testing treatments across a variety of cancers. “I am deeply grateful to the Parker Institute for helping us generate the proof of principle data needed to bring this innovative research platform to patients,” said Barbie. Singer will leverage her support to develop a computational tool to better analyze the immune data to emerge from single-cell transcriptomics, which examines gene expression on an individual cellular level. With his funding, Wucherpfennig will test his theory that immune cells can be coaxed into infiltrating formerly resistant tumors by targeting certain pathways.

Family and future inspire bequest to fund fellowships

For George and Sherry Dickerman, philanthropy is a family affair, a way to teach their children and grandchildren to give back and shape the future. Sherry and George both grew up in working-class communities where they learned what it means to take care of one’s neighbor. After Sherry’s mother was diagnosed with cancer, a local organization stepped in to help the young family; George’s life was changed by a family friend who helped him pay for his last year of college. These experiences inspired them to pay it forward by funding cancer research and educational opportunities. “As a New Englander and a baseball player, I grew up with the Jimmy Fund and knowing Dana-Farber’s reputation,” said George.

The couple started giving to Dana-Farber more than 40 years ago, supporting Jimmy Fund events, and naming genes in Dana-Farber’s Gene Display for Sherry’s mother and George’s sister who died of breast cancer. In 2015 their daughter-in-law, Nina, learned that her mother’s multiple myeloma was no longer responding to treatment. “Nina’s the daughter we never had,” said Sherry. Added George, “Nina was at her mom’s side every day and incredibly moved by the extraordinary care her mother received from her doctor at Dana-Farber, who was a fellow.”

To honor Nina’s mother, Susan Dickens, George and Sherry established a $500,000 bequest equally supporting the Dana-Farber/Partners CancerCare Hematology/Oncology (DF/PCC) Fellowship Program, and unrestricted funds that provide flexible support for the Institute’s lifesaving mission. “The DF/PCC Fellowship Program is one of the most sought after in the country,” said Ann LaCase, MD, MMSc, director of the program. “Philanthropy gives our fellows the freedom to pursue research that sparks their curiosity. Many of today’s top cancer researchers came through our program. We are extremely grateful for the Dickermans’ generous bequest intention.”

“Mom my was a beloved teacher,” said Nina, who now works at Dana-Farber. “She would be honored that this gift will help the rising stars who love what they do and need funding to support their life’s work and have families.”

Funding helps to make Waldenström’s a paradigm for all cancers

The IWMF grants also provide renewed support for research conducted by Treon and Yang, which focuses on a mutation in the MYD88 gene that drives nearly 90 percent of all Waldenström’s cases. “The IWMF has provided ongoing, essential funding that has made Waldenström’s a paradigm for all cancers,” said Treon. “Namely to do genomic research, find key mutations, do the signaling work to understand how these mutations work, develop targeted drugs to shut down their effects, perform clinical studies with these drugs, and get regulatory approval for their use. This strategy has already resulted in the approval of drutinib, and more drugs will likely be approved because of Waldenström’s a paradigm for all cancers.”

Since 1999, the IWMF has invested millions of dollars into Waldenström’s research, and along the way, has helped make this blood cancer a manageable chronic disease for patients. “The IWMF is proud of the longstanding partnership we have had with Dana-Farber,” said IWMF President Carl Harrington. “We know that in working together, the research has yielded tremendous results that benefit the entire Waldenström’s community with more and better treatment options, and longer, healthier lives.”

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Guided by their Strategic Research Roadmap Initiative, the IWMF has enlisted the cooperation of major players in the Waldenström’s community, including Dana-Farber. IWMF grants totaling $900,000 are furthering the work of Steven Teon, MD, PhD, director of the Bing Center for Waldenström’s Macroglobulinemia Research, and co-investigators Zachary Hunter, PhD, and Guang Yang, PhD.

“As someone trying to start their research career focused on Waldenström’s macroglobulinemia, the support of the IWMF has been invaluable,” said Hunter, citing the impact of IWMF international workshops and young investigator programs, in addition to funding. Hunter is conducting research to shed light on Waldenström’s pathways by integrating and analyzing genomic, epigenomic, and transcriptional data with patient responses and outcomes, to advance understanding of this disease and investigate new therapeutic strategies.

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10% of all designated gifts supports our Faculty Research Fund to advance Dana-Farber’s research mission
Schusters spur collaborative research into new lung cancer therapies

To propel innovative research in lung cancer, notable Boston philanthropists Elaine and Gerald “Jerry” Schuster have made a generous $1 million commitment to Dana-Farber. In this instance, in sponsoring the investigations of Bruce Johnson, MD, Jerry and his wife contribute to the bettering of research into Jerry Schuster’s mortal cancer.

The newly established Schuster Fund for Lung Cancer Research will support the investigations of Johnson, who is Dana-Farber’s chief clinical research officer and who served as Jerry’s oncologist until Jerry’s passing in October 2018 at the age of 89.

“My late husband, Jerry, and I had a lot of admiration for Dr. Johnson and the work he is doing,” said Elaine Schuster. “We wanted to help expand his research for the benefit of other families facing a lung cancer diagnosis.”

The fund helps enable collaborative research between Johnson and Pasi Jänne, MD, PhD, director of the Carole M. and Philip L. Lowe Center for Thoracic Oncology, who are delving into the genetic makeup of lung cancer to expand treatment options for patients.

Of particular interest to Johnson and Jänne are the mechanisms that develop to make tumors resistant to treatment with targeted therapies or immune therapies. Identifying these mechanisms can help define appropriate therapeutic interventions, which can include new treatments designed to attack a tumor with acquired resistance, or may prompt the use of combination targeted or immune therapies.

“Because lung cancer patients at Dana-Farber can have their tumors sequenced through our Profile initiative and we can study the tumors after they become resistant to targeted therapies, we have a vast amount of data on the genomic changes responsible for acquired resistance,” said Jänne, who is also director of the Robert and Renée Belfer Center for Applied Cancer Science. “We are investigating whether newly designed drugs or drug combinations can be effective after the initial therapy fails.”

“Research increasingly points to the need for more potent and specific inhibitors or combination treatment approaches to achieve long-term success for patients with lung cancers,” said Johnson.

“At Dana-Farber, we are uniquely positioned to conduct both the initial research to develop new combinations of targeted therapies and the clinical trials of these approaches.”

Dana-Farber’s Lowe Center for Thoracic Oncology is a national leader in translating novel therapeutic ideas from the laboratory bench to the patient’s bedside and constantly strives to expand the breadth of therapies available to patients in the clinic.

“This generous gift will help us pursue the most promising areas of research not only to improve outcomes for patients, but to help shape the future of lung cancer care,” said Johnson. “We are so grateful that Jerry and Elaine chose to invest in our work and, as ever, we continue to be inspired by our patients.”

V Foundation supports future superstars of cancer research

Inspired by legendary college basketball coach and broadcaster Jim Valvano, who invested in both the short- and long-term success of his players, the V Foundation for Cancer Research awards V Scholar Grants to early career faculty so they can propel extraordinary cancer research while growing as future leaders in their fields.

Recently, the V Foundation granted two V Scholar awards totaling $400,000 to Dana-Farber’s R. Coleman Lindsley, MD, PhD, and Jens Lohr, MD, PhD. Lindsley is studying BCOR mutations to assess their clinical impact on patients with endometrial carcinoma and determine their effect on cancer progression in other tissues, while Lohr is advancing a novel liquid biopsy to uncover the mechanisms of drug resistance in multiple myeloma.

According to Dana-Farber President and CEO Laurie H. Glimcher, MD, the V Foundation’s generosity has a profound impact on emerging talents. She said: “We are truly grateful to the V Foundation for their visionary investments in our promising researchers at such a formative stage of their careers.”

V Foundation CEO Susan Braun noted that this competitive funding is aimed at developing independently funded investigators who can accelerate lifesaving research for years to come. “The V Foundation is pleased to support Dana-Farber’s talented scientists as they build their careers and bring Victory Over Cancer closer with every new breakthrough.”

— SUSAN BRAUN, CEO, V Foundation

Extra Mile Brunch celebrates 30th Jimmy Fund Walk

The Extra Mile Brunch, held in March and attended by more than 800 guests, celebrated the many participants who helped the 2018 Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai raise more than $8.6 million for Dana-Farber. Guests at the event included Pacesetters (participants who raised $1,500 or more, and participants under the age of 12 who raised $500 or more), Captains and Co-Captains of teams that raised $10,000 or more, Volunteer Site Captains, sponsors, and Jimmy Fund Walk Heroes. The Extra Mile Brunch also served as the kick-off for the 31st annual Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk to be held on Sunday, September 22, 2019. Recognized for $500,000+ lifetime achievement in Team Fundraising were (above, from left): George Sweeney and Beverly Sweeney, of Team Karen; Ilva Qorri, of Dana-Farber’s Philanthropy team; Venus Watson and Joanne Wolfe, MD, MPH, of Kessler’s CrewPACT Pack; and Colleen Devereaux and Jacqueline Adams, of Amy’s Army. Recognized for $2 million cumulatively raised was Team Police Chiefs, represented by Chief Russell Stevens.
A generous gift from an anonymous donor allows Irene Ghobrial, MD, director of the Michele and Steven Kirsch Laboratory, to uncover novel treatment approaches for SMM and, with the addition of a senior fellow, accelerate translation of research findings into clinical trial design. "These funds come at a time when we have new technologies at our fingertips that make it possible to study smoldering disease in a manner that was not imaginable even two years ago," she said. Ghobrial and the CPOP team are working to validate a blood biopsy test for SMM and are utilizing highly sensitive single cell RNA sequencing to understand the tumor-microenvironment, both of which will inform future treatment strategies. Ghobrial's team is testing FDA-approved drugs in other diseases as candidates for treating SMM, with the hope of making existing therapies available to SMM patients in the near term. In 2019, Dana-Farber announced the expansion of CPOP to include clinical offerings, as well as access to genetic counseling for patients and their families. Currently, there are three clinical trials open for SMM patients at Dana-Farber, a dramatic shift from just years ago. Ghobrial added, “We are on the cusp of changing the standard of care for SMM, and this gift both accelerates our momentum in the lab and ensures that the findings being generated in the clinic will come back to the bench.”

"Catching diseases early before they progress is one of the ways Dana-Farber will change the face of cancer in the next decade," said Laurie H. Glimcher, MD, Dana-Farber president and CEO and the Richard and Susan Smith Professor of Medicine. Early detection and prevention are key pillars of Glimcher’s strategic plan and an area where patients, physicians, and philanthropic partners have brought innovative ideas to life at Dana-Farber.

Aid for Cancer Research provides tangible support

Aid for Cancer Research (ACR) is an all-volunteer organization comprised of 13 women from the Greater Boston area. In ACR’s more than 70-year history, this remarkable group of committed volunteers has raised millions of dollars to support vital research programs and medical institutions in Massachusetts. ACR is making a tangible impact in the fight against cancer by supporting Dana-Farber's Departments of Radiation Oncology and Pediatric Oncology. Because of ACR’s generosity, Dana-Farber was able to acquire essential pieces of equipment valued at more than $270,000—including a cell sorter and a liquid nitrogen freezer—to help the Institute's world-class scientists conduct essential laboratory research. Using sorted cells, investigators in Pediatric Oncology can conduct genetic studies to better understand how cancer cells grow and become resistant to drugs, as well as test potential therapies. Researchers in Radiation Oncology are relying on the new liquid nitrogen storage freezer as part of their overarching efforts to detect ovarian cancer early, when the disease is more treatable, by finding and measuring “markers” of the cancer floating in the bloodstream.

In the words of Dana-Farber's Stephen Sallan, MD, Quick Family Chair in Pediatric Oncology and a member of ACR's Medical Advisory Board, "The women of ACR's energy and commitment over many years have had tangible benefits for many of us at Dana-Farber. While Boston-focused, the beneficiaries of their generosity are today’s, and tomorrow’s, patients worldwide. We cherish their collective efforts and are most grateful."
The Pussycat Foundation expands mentorship program for women scientists

The Pussycat Foundation, created by longtime Cosmopolitan magazine editor-in-chief Helen Gurley Brown, has doubled the size of its signature program at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute with a new grant of $1.9 million. The Helen Gurley Brown Presidential Initiative, which began in 2016 by funding five pairs of senior women faculty and women fellows for two years, has expanded to include 10 pairs for 2018–2020.

The initiative reflects a growing recognition that women with established scientific careers can be uniquely sensitive to the challenges facing their younger female colleagues in academic medicine—and that junior women researchers benefit by having women scientists as mentors and role models. In each pairing, the senior researcher, known as a Helen Mentor, supervises the younger investigator, known as a Helen Fellow, in a research project thought to have particular promise. The mentors and fellows were selected by a review committee comprised of Dana-Farber clinicians and researchers.

“All of cancer research benefits when young women scientists have the opportunity to draw on the experience and example of women leaders of laboratory and clinical research,” said Helen Mentor Laurie H. Glimcher, MD, Dana-Farber president and CEO and the Richard and Susan Smith Professor of Medicine. “We’re thrilled that the foundation has enabled us to double the size of this initiative.”

The Pussycat Foundation, named for Helen Gurley Brown’s favorite term of endearment, was created in 2012 to further Gurley Brown’s support of the educational and professional advancement of young women and girls, among other initiatives. The new grant provides two years of funding for Helen Fellows’ salary, research, and professional development. It also includes the Helen Gurley Brown Leadership Development Program, which organizes semiannual meetings for Helen Mentors and Fellows to update each other on their work; the Helen Gurley Brown Presidential Summit on Women and Science, an annual lecture focused on the career paths of women in science; and support for Helen Fellows to attend scientific conferences.

“This initiative can play a key role not only in building the ranks of women scientists in hematology and oncology but also in correcting the imbalance between male and female researchers in the higher echelons of academic medicine,” said Leslie Kean, MD, PhD, director of the Pediatric Stem Cell Transplant Center and one of the new Helen Mentors. “More than half of medical students are now women, but as you go up the academic career ladder, the number of women declines steadily—and not for a lack of talent. The Helen Gurley Brown Presidential Initiative recognizes the role that those of us in senior leadership can play in furthering the careers of women scientists.”

Magenta-haired John Legere presents $4.5 million from #MatchtoConquerCancer

Originally launched as a $2 million campaign—with a promise to dye his hair magenta if that goal were reached—T-Mobile CEO and Institute Trustee John Legere’s #MatchtoConquerCancer challenge more than doubled its original goal, raising $3.5 million from nearly 1,000 donors. Legere personally matched $1 million to bring the grand total to $4.5 million.

The money raised will support Dana-Farber’s Profile initiative—one of the most comprehensive patient-based cancer genomics projects in the world.

True to his words, Legere (center) sports magenta hair as he presents the $4.5 million check accompanied by (from left) former Dana-Farber patients Dave Murcatelli and Mavis Carr, who shared their stories as part of the campaign; Laurie H. Glimcher, MD, Dana-Farber president and CEO and the Richard and Susan Smith Professor of Medicine; and Barrett Rollins, MD, PhD, chief scientific officer and the Linde Family Professor of Medicine.

QuadW Foundation drives osteosarcoma drug discovery

The scientists at Dana-Farber continue to be leaders in the sarcoma research field,” said Lauren Jordan, member of the QuadW Advisory Board. “The QuadW board believes that it is a good investment in quality and innovation to support a fellow such as Matt Harlow, as he will be trained by these top-notch researchers.”

“The scientists at Dana-Farber continue to be leaders in the sarcoma research field.”

— LAUREN JORDAN, QuadW Advisory Board

QuadW Foundation drives osteosarcoma drug discovery

What Would Willie Want

The What Would Willie Want (QuadW) Foundation awarded more than $140,000 to Dana-Farber fellow Matthew Harlow, PhD, to investigate a potential therapeutic target in osteosarcoma, a common type of bone cancer with few therapeutic options for metastatic disease. Harlow, a post-doctoral fellow in the laboratory of Rani George, MD, PhD, is exploring the functional role of the gene CDC6L in osteosarcoma and working to identify small molecule inhibitors that can be used clinically to block the cancerous activity of CDC6L.

“This gift is enabling me to answer fundamental questions about the therapeutic potential of CDC6L,” said Harlow. “I am truly grateful to the QuadW Foundation for their inspiring mission to develop new treatments for this difficult disease.”

The QuadW Foundation provides financial support to people and organizations pursuing innovative ideas in sarcoma research and other philanthropic missions. The organization was founded in memory of Willie Tichenor, who died of osteosarcoma in 2006 at 19 years of age. His family and friends made it their mission to find new treatments for patients like him.

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“The scientists at Dana-Farber continue to be leaders in the sarcoma research field.”

— LAUREN JORDAN, QuadW Advisory Board
Shipp to serve as first Douglas S. Miller Chair in Hodgkin Lymphoma

M arlin Miller Jr. began supporting the work of Dana-Farber’s Margaret Shipp, MD, soon after his son, Doug, was diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma. Since then, Shipp has made landmark discoveries about the relationship between Hodgkin lymphoma and the immune system, leading to effective new treatments for the disease.

Doug Miller died in 2004, but his memory lives on through a recent $2.5 million gift from his father and the Marlin Miller Jr. Family Foundation to endow the Douglas S. Miller Chair in Hodgkin Lymphoma at Dana-Farber. “It is an honor to appoint Dr. Shipp as the first incumbent of the Douglas S. Miller Chair,” said Laurie H. Glimcher, MD, Dana-Farber president and CEO and the Richard and Susan Smith Professor of Medicine. “Dana-Farber’s greatest strength is its ‘human capital’—the distinguished faculty like Margaret who are dedicated to solving the most complicated problems in cancer.”

“Dr. Shipp has made significant progress to understand Hodgkin lymphoma and how to more effectively treat the disease,” said Marlin Miller. “We honor Doug by establishing this chair, which will enable Dr. Shipp to dig even deeper into the underlying biology of Hodgkin lymphoma and to develop the next generation of treatments for patients.”

This gift also provides early momentum for the Institute’s planned comprehensive campaign. “For a scientist like Dr. Shipp, time is a finite resource. Our hope is that our family’s gift inspires others to support outstanding Dana-Farber faculty in this way as well, so that more time can be spent in the lab than writing grants,” Miller added.

As chief of the Division of Hematologic Neoplasia and director of the Lymphoma Program, Shipp discovered that Hodgkin lymphoma cells frequently have extra copies of a chromosome region that causes increased production of the PD-1 and PD-L2 proteins and associated activation of the PD-1 pathway, which allows cancer cells to escape detection by the immune system.

Dr. Shipp and her colleagues evaluated two different PD-1 blocking antibodies in Hodgkin lymphoma and found that both eliminated PD-1/PD-L1 interaction and drove the disease into remission. This work led to the recent FDA approval of both antibodies to treat Hodgkin lymphoma. In ongoing studies, the group is characterizing the molecular basis of response and resistance to PD-1 blockade and identifying candidate combination therapies.

“I am honored to serve as the first Douglas S. Miller Chair at Dana-Farber,” said Shipp. “The Miller family’s generosity has been instrumental in my lab’s efforts to better understand the mechanisms behind immune system evasion in Hodgkin lymphoma and uncover additional treatment targets. It is a wonderful way to celebrate Doug’s legacy.”

Margaret Shipp, MD, pictured with Dana-Farber President Emeritus David G. Nathan, MD (left), and Marlin Miller Jr., serves as the first Douglas S. Miller Chair in Hodgkin lymphoma, created through a gift from Miller and his family’s foundation.

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— MARLIN MILLER JR.

Named space celebrates Duffys’ legacy of love

In May, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to honor Daniel Duffy’s generous unrestricted gift to Dana-Farber in tribute to his wife, Rosemary. Duffy’s gift was recognized with a plaque in the Thea and James Stoneman Healing Garden in the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care. The Healing Garden is a special space designed for patients and families to step away from the hospital setting and enjoy the healing effects of nature. More than 30 family members and friends attended the ceremony to celebrate Rosemary’s life.

Above: Dan (left) and his grandson, Colin, who cut the ribbon for his grandmother’s plaque.
Anonymous gift creates fund to power promising esophageal cancer research

A generous $500,000 gift from longtime supporters of Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund will advance the innovative research of Adam Bass, MD, director of translational research in Dana-Farber’s Center for Esophageal and Gastric Cancer.

The couple, who wish to remain anonymous, named the fund in honor of a brother, Dave, who passed away from the disease. Dave was diagnosed with late-stage esophageal cancer after exhibiting very few symptoms. A major challenge in the diagnosis and treatment of esophageal cancer is that symptoms are usually not present until the cancer has advanced. Dave’s Fund for Esophageal Cancer Research will further promising investigations underway in Bass’ lab, including studies to better identify people with Barrett’s esophagus, a precursor to esophageal cancer, who are at the highest risk of cancer.

“This generous gift is instrumental in accelerating our research studies, including both our research to identify genetic markers to determine which patients are at the highest risk for esophageal cancer and to advance our work into developing new therapies for those who are diagnosed with these cancers,” Bass said. “We hope this will enhance screening, early diagnosis and therapy, greatly improving prognosis for patients.”

“We are honored to support Dr. Bass’ work in Dave’s name,” the donors said. “Dana-Farber is leading the way with cutting-edge studies in esophageal cancer, and we are hopeful this gift will help uncover new findings that lead to improved diagnostic tools and therapies for this terrible disease.”

Philanthropic support is vital to scientific discovery, as it can be the sole source of funding for many research projects, especially early stage projects. “With funding from this gift, Bass’ lab will focus on identifying possible therapeutic targets for esophageal cancer, in addition to studies on screening and diagnosis. Though molecular analysis of cancer-promoting genes that have been genetically engineered in our lab, we seek to identify immune and targeted therapies for several subtypes of esophageal cancer,” Bass said. “Dave’s Fund will help us in our work to uncover new targets and treatments for this disease.”

The Hearst Foundations jumpstart new Mammography Van

The mission of The Hearst Foundations is to identify and fund exceptional nonprofits to ensure that people of all backgrounds in the United States have the opportunity to build healthy, productive, and inspiring lives. Toward that goal, The Hearst Foundations recently made a generous gift of $200,000 toward Dana-Farber’s purchase of a new Mammography Van. Launched in 2002, the Mammography Van provides breast cancer screenings and breast health education to medically undererved women in Boston’s high priority, low-income communities. With thousands of mammograms and miles under its belt, the Mammography Van requires regular maintenance and care; and since the van’s start 17 years ago, there have been technological advances, including 3-D mammography. This new technology has the ability to provide clearer and more accurate views of the breast, and is an asset in detecting abnormalities more quickly and effectively. Interestingly, this 3-D equipment outweighs the current van, so with the new equipment comes the need for a new van. The gift from The Hearst Foundations is helping to accelerate the project by funding technological upgrades for a new van.

“Our goal is to help make improvements to the Mammography Van, and, in turn, remove barriers to diagnosis and treatment for cancer patients in and around Boston,” said Mason Granger, director of grants with The Hearst Foundations. “If we can build awareness of the van’s vast potential and encourage others to make gifts as well, that will be additionally supportive.”

Kraft Family Blood Donor Center celebrates its blood donors

Many cancer patients rely on regular transfusions of blood or platelets to survive, as their treatment can interfere with the body’s ability to manufacture platelets—essential cells that enable blood to clot and control bleeding. For 35 years, compassionate blood donors at the Kraft Family Blood Donor Center at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Brigham and Women’s Hospital have given of themselves for patients in need. And a little goes a long way—a single blood donation made at the Kraft Center can help as many as three patients.

In February, the Kraft Center celebrated donors of platelets and whole blood at the annual Breakfast of Champions recognition brunch at Gillette Stadium, including Team 20 (above), those who donated platelets 20 times or more during the year. Pictured above with Team 20 are Dana-Farber President and CEO Laurie H. Glimcher, MD (center, holding Super Bowl trophy); Institute Trustee, platelet donor, and brunch host Daniel Kraft (right of Glimcher); and Kraft Family Professor of Medicine Kenneth Anderson, MD (left of Glimcher).
10% of all designated gifts supports our Faculty Research Fund to advance Dana-Farber’s research mission

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society continues longstanding partnership with Dana-Farber providing $2.8 million in new grants

Together, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute have accelerated the development of new blood cancer therapies for more than 40 years. Most recently, eight Dana-Farber faculty members were honored as recipients of new, highly competitive grant awards totaling $2.8 million, for their work in multiple myeloma, follicular lymphoma, and acute myeloid leukemia, among other blood cancers.

“LLS is proud to have advanced 19 of the 21 blood cancer therapies approved by the FDA in 2018, many of which were supported by Dana-Farber’s world-renowned researchers,” said Louis J. DeGennaro, PhD, LLS president and CEO. “LLS and Dana-Farber continue to drive toward a shared goal: to eradicate blood cancers and ensure patients have access to the treatments they need to live longer, more fulfilling lives. Our more than 40 years of partnership exemplifies Dana-Farber’s spirit of collaboration and innovation—one that drives the cutting-edge research necessary to cure blood cancer.”

Among the recipients is Kai Wucherpfennig, MD, PhD, chair of Cancer Immunology and Virology, who was awarded a $600,000 grant from LLS’s Translational Research Program aimed at funding new research to accelerate bench-to-bedside treatment and cures for leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma, and other blood cancers. Wucherpfennig is studying a novel antibody believed to induce immune-mediated destruction of multiple myeloma cells. A better understanding of this antibody may inform the development of a novel immunotherapy approach for multiple myeloma by targeting an immune evasion mechanism that is prevalent in the disease.

David Weinstock, MD, is the recipient of the LLS New Idea Award, which funds innovative approaches that might fundamentally change the understanding, diagnosis, and/or treatment of blood cancers and related pre-malignant conditions. Weinstock and his colleague Edward Bierchek, MD, PhD, seek to provide a less expensive and simpler alternative to current testing methods for lymphoma-related markers in low- and middle-income countries. Through established partnerships with the Instituto De La Liga Nacional Contra El Cancer (INCIAN), the only public cancer center in Guatemala, and DXterity, a molecular information and diagnostics company, Weinstock plans to test a new assay that can diagnose specific types of lymphoma for less than $15 per sample, as compared to $450 per sample for current immunohistochemistry diagnostic tools.

Philippe Armand, MD, PhD, director of clinical research in the Lymphoma Program and the Harold and Virginia Lash Endowed Chair in Lymphoma Research at Dana-Farber; Matthew Davids, MD, MMSc; and Lakshmi Nayak, MD, director of the Center for Central Nervous System (CNS) Lymphoma, were each selected as a Scholar in Clinical Research within LLS’ Career Development Program. The program also chose Brandon Aubrey, MD, PhD, Yael Ben-Nun, PhD, and Niraj Joshi, PhD, as Fellows.

“Our more than 40 years of partnership exemplifies Dana-Farber’s spirit of collaboration and innovation.”

— LOUIS DEGENNARO, PhD, president and chief executive officer, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Businesses and companies that join Dana-Farber’s President’s Circle Corporate Leaders show support for those in their communities and workplaces battling cancer.

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To learn more, please contact: Casey Quinn 617-632-6099 Annual_Giving@dfci.harvard.edu

Hamilton Family honored with Ken Coleman Extra Mile Award

Jimmy Fund Golf Appreciation Night recognized the tremendous dedication of volunteer tournament directors and committees who collectively raised a record $8.1 million for cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber. Tournament organizers gathered together to celebrate their accomplishments and hear about the impact of their giving. More than 160 golf tournaments were held across 12 states in 2018 through Jimmy Fund Golf presented by Mohegan Sun.

The Hamilton Family (above) was presented with the Ken Coleman Extra Mile Award, given each year to a longtime volunteer who goes above and beyond in support of our lifesaving mission. For the past 11 years, Sarah and Rick Hamilton have organized the Chickaroo Classic, a golf tournament named in honor of their daughter Caroline, who was diagnosed with a pediatric low-grade astrocytoma (PLGA) at age six. They also lead Team Chickaroo in the Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai and other Jimmy Fund events. Collectively, they have raised nearly $1 million for the PLGA Program at Dana-Farber.

From left: Rick, Caroline, and Sarah Hamilton.
First-of-its-kind partnership aims to deliver immunotherapy breakthroughs faster than ever before

Immunotherapies have played a critical role in advancing melanoma treatment, but they can also trigger a range of serious side effects, some of which are deadly. To optimize the benefits of immunotherapy for patients, the Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA) and the American Cancer Society (ACS) formed a grant-making partnership to fund research into finding better ways to predict, prevent, and mitigate risks associated with this game-changing treatment approach.

"The partnership between the MRA and the ACS is timely and important for patients getting new immunotherapy drugs," said William Phelps, PhD, senior vice president for Extramural Research at the American Cancer Society. "Together we believe we can really move the field forward and more rapidly improve outcomes for patients."

The MRA and the ACS awarded one of their first ACS-MRA Multidisciplinary Team Awards to Kai Wucherpfennig, MD, PhD, chair of Cancer Immunology and Virology and director of the Center for Cancer Immunotherapy Research at Dana-Farber. Wucherpfennig and his team received a $1 million grant to further investigate treatments for colitis—a common and unfortunate side effect of immunotherapy that causes inflammation in the colon.

"When receiving immunotherapy, some melanoma patients experience side effects such as colitis, which, if left untreated, can be life-threatening," said Wucherpfennig. "This grant from the MRA and the ACS will help propel research to better understand the causes for these serious side effects of immunotherapy."

While the MRA and the ACS grant is dedicated to melanoma research, the hope is that lessons learned from this research could impact other cancer types, such as lung, head and neck, and kidney, as well as the entire field of oncology.

"Melanoma has already served as the proving ground for several immunotherapies, including the use of checkpoint inhibitors for treatment," said Michael Kaplan, president and CEO of the Melanoma Research Alliance. "We hope that by investing in critical research in this area we can continue to find ways to let the immune system do its job in fighting cancer."

Wucherpfennig and his team are using the grant to lead a clinical trial to determine how to best treat immunotherapy-induced colitis in a way that will preserve the activity of the immune system to target cancer. The study will also assess if inflammatory molecules can be directly targeted in patients who do not respond to current therapies.

"The conclusions from this study will not only be relevant for the treatment of colitis, but also for the treatment of other side effects that can be caused by powerful new immunotherapies," said Wucherpfennig.

The B+ Foundation reaches for the heights to conquer cancer

When teams of college students climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, trekked Everest, or journeyed to Machu Picchu last summer, many wore T-shirts bedecked with “B+.” That bold logo represents The Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation, which thousands of students—from preschools through universities—have supported since its 2007 launch.

Kids Helping Kids Fight Cancer™ is more than a motto for the organization established in memory of Andrew McDonough, a 14-year-old student-athlete from Delaware who died from acute myeloid leukemia in 2007. B-positive was his blood type and the way he lived, says Andrew’s father and B+ Foundation President Joe McDonough. “It’s a tribute to Andrew to see young people so involved in raising awareness and funds for groundbreaking research that shows the most potential for beating cancer.” Andrew’s mother, Chris, and his sister, Ali, are B+ co-founders and board members.

Since 2013, B+ has awarded more than half a million dollars to Dana-Farber’s A. Thomas Look, MD, who says the foundation’s recent $100,000 award will help him “pinpoint the mechanisms of disease progression in preclinical research models, identify novel therapeutic targets, and analyze the effectiveness of the most promising drugs.” Look, who serves on the B+ scientific advisory board, adds that “the B+ Foundation has funded important leukemia research in my laboratory for the past six years, making discoveries possible in childhood leukemia that would not otherwise have been realized.”

"We hope that by investing in critical research we can continue to find ways to let the immune system do its job in fighting cancer."

— MICHAEL KAPLAN, president and CEO, Melanoma Research Alliance
Fall Formal surpasses $400,000 in first five years

When Jonathan Kazarian and his friend Zach Hagopian hosted their first Fall Formal at the age of 24, they never dreamed that it would transform into one of the largest cancer-fundraising events of the year.

Since 2014, Fall Formal has raised over $400,000 for cancer patient care and research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Now in its sixth year, Fall Formal offers young professionals in Boston the unique opportunity to enjoy a black-tie evening with friends. The event includes dancing, hors d’oeuvres, a silent auction, and more while raising essential funds for the Jimmy Fund.

“The draw of the event is to hopefully combine our fundraising efforts with a night of fun,” Kazarian said. “We have all been impacted by cancer, and if we can help in the fight against it, we’re meeting our goal.”

Kazarian’s attachment to Dana-Farber is personal. His cousin was diagnosed with soft-tissue sarcoma at age 17, sadly passing away recently. Kazarian knows that events like theirs are critical to the progression of research advancements at Dana-Farber, as scientists fight toward cures for cancer. Through Fall Formal, Kazarian and partner Hagopian plan to continue bringing young professionals together to raise vital funds for Dana-Farber.

Wolterman gives back to help others with multiple myeloma

When she was diagnosed, Nancy Wolterman and her husband, Ed, of Cincinnati, searched the country for a doctor with exceptional multiple myeloma expertise. After learning about Tom Brokaw’s experience at Dana-Farber and consulting with medical friends, they met with Paul Richardson, MD, clinical program leader and director of clinical research at the Institute’s Jerome Lipper Multiple Myeloma Center, who now oversees her care. They find him genuine, present, and very approachable, and note that, “once he’s with a patient, he gives us all the time we need.”

In late 2018, Nancy pledged $100,000 to establish the Wolterman Family Fund to advance multiple myeloma research led by Richardson, who is also the R.J. Corman Professor of Medicine. “It’s amazing, the doctors’ dedication,” she said. “They give up a lot of their lives to help other people. We’ve been blessed. I wanted to give something back, and this seemed like the perfect solution—to help further the research.”

Richardson said, “Nancy’s very kind generosity enables our clinical research team to understand more fully how and why treatments work, reduce toxicity, and increase the tolerability of our combination therapies, to help improve patient outcomes. We are deeply grateful for Nancy and Ed’s kindness and invaluable support.”

After decades without any new drugs for multiple myeloma, Dana-Farber’s team has been instrumental in securing over 20 FDA drug approvals and indications for multiple myeloma in the past 13 years. The Wolterman Family Fund fuels this ongoing innovation which improves patient lives worldwide.

Perrin Family names office in honor of Jeffrey Wisch, MD

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was recently held to celebrate Sandra and Donald Perrin’s generous gift to Dana-Farber, which named the office of Jeffrey Wisch, MD, in the Charles A. Dana Building, to support his rare gastrointestinal cancer research. As a patient of Wisch’s, Sandra and her husband, Donald, were inspired to acknowledge him publicly to show their appreciation for his compassionate care. Naming space is a wonderful way to leave a lasting mark of support for Dana-Farber, and Wisch was touched to be honored by the Perrins in this meaningful way.

Above, Donald and Sandra celebrate with Wisch (right) in front of his newly named office.

Terri Brodeur Breast Cancer Foundation supports promising junior researchers in pursuit of better treatments

Terri Brodeur was a stage IV breast cancer patient and mother of three who inspired everyone who knew her with her courageous fighting spirit during her two-year battle with this disease. Determined to honor Terri’s life and accelerate effective treatment options that she did not have, Terri’s friends Norma Logan and Sandy Maniscalco founded the Terri Brodeur Breast Cancer Foundation (TBBCF), a grassroots nonprofit organization based in Connecticut that grants competitive two-year fellowships to promising early career breast cancer researchers.

Recently, TBBCF awarded fellowships totaling $300,000 to Dana-Farber’s Veerle Daniels, PhD; Ana Garrido-Castro, MD; and Adrienne Waks, MD. Daniels is working to identify metabolic pathways that can be targeted in combination with conventional chemotherapeutics to increase therapy response and reduce therapy-induced toxicities in triple-negative breast cancer. Garrido-Castro aims to advance precision treatments by analyzing the genomic and immune profiles of primary hormone receptor-positive tumors in patients who later developed metastatic triple-negative breast cancer. Waks is assessing the feasibility of treating stage II-III HER2-positive breast cancer with less intensive therapies to reduce toxicities and improve patients’ quality of life.

According to Michael Garabedian, PhD, professor at New York University School of Medicine and founding member of the TBBCF scientific advisory board, the goal of this funding is to enable recipients to develop independent programs and forge productive careers in breast cancer research. He said: “The Terri Brodeur Breast Cancer Foundation is pleased to support Dana-Farber’s exceptional young investigators as they advance high-impact science that leads to better treatments for patients.”
Cellgene Corporation recently made a generous grant of $100,000 to Dana-Farber through its Cellgene Cancer Care Links initiative, which focuses on health care challenges facing patients in developing parts of the world. With Cellgene’s support, Dana-Farber’s David Weinstock, MD, and Edward Briercheck, MD, PhD, will partner with Cyntia Fabiola Valvert Gamboa, MD, of Instituto De La Liga Nacional Contra El Cáncer (INCAN), the public cancer hospital in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Access to specialized treatment for patients with lymphoma in Guatemala can be challenging. Weinstock’s project aims to characterize the landscape of lymphomas in Guatemala, and implement a low-cost diagnostic tool for differentiating lymphoma subtypes. This would allow Guatemalan patients better access to the most appropriate and effective treatment plans for their specific forms of lymphoma. On a larger scale, these diagnostics have the potential to be used with other types of cancer and can extend to other regions of the world.

“The first step in the optimal care of lymphoma is obtaining an accurate and highly specific diagnosis,” said Weinstock. “This is not a simple task, but with Cellgene’s support and my partnership with Dr. Valvert Gamboa, we’re going to make it a reality.”

“This is an exciting new initiative and we look forward to working with Dana-Farber and INCAN to support cancer health care capacity building in Guatemala,” said Joe Camardo, MD, senior vice president, Global Health and Corporate Affairs Medical Strategy at Cellgene.

Defeat DIPG and ChadTough collaborate to find a cure

Brought together by loss, the Mosier and Carr families have united to fund groundbreaking research into diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG), the devastating disease that claimed the lives of their sons, Michael Mosier and Chad Carr. DIPG is a rare, highly aggressive brain tumor found at the base of the brain, an area that controls vital functions such as breathing and heart rate. It is among the deadliest and most difficult cancers to treat.

For Jenny and Mark Mosier of the Michael Mosier Defeat DIPG Foundation, and Tammi and Jason Carr of The ChadTough Foundation, collaboration and innovation are paramount in the search for a cure. The foundations, along with their chapters and partner families, have awarded a grant to Dana-Farber’s Pratiti Bandopadhayay, PhD, MBBS, who is studying targeted therapies for DIPG. Bandopadhayay will examine the role of certain RNAs in controlling DIPG growth to identify which can be targeted in novel ways. Defeat DIPG and ChadTough have also awarded a two-year fellowship to Zach Reitman, MD, PhD, a mentee of Bandopadhayay’s, who is studying how gene mutations drive DIPG formation with the goal of identifying targeted drugs. These projects—totaling $350,000 in grants—are collaborative in nature, a hallmark of the families’ approach to finding a cure.

“By working together, we can make a bigger impact and ensure that children diagnosed in the future will have access to the effective treatments that all kids who faced DIPG deserved,” said Mark Mosier.

Ance Genovese was a fighter. Her battle with ovarian cancer was one she fought with determination and grace. She and Mike, her husband and fierce advocate, were always looking for Nancy’s path forward. Over the course of six years, they consulted with more than six cancer clinics globally. After Nancy’s third recurrence, they met with doctors at Dana-Farber and were impressed by their care, capabilities, and willingness to help.

They were particularly impressed by Sarah Hill, MD, PhD, who began to grow an organoid of Nancy’s tumor.

“Organoids are tiny, three-dimensional tumor models, generated from each patient’s own tumor cells,” Hill explained. “In tandem with genomic data, organoids may predict the sensitivity of an individual’s tumor to certain drugs in real time.”

Tragically, Nancy’s cancer advanced faster than her organoid grew. She passed away before her organoid was viable for testing.

To ensure that “the next Nancy” has access to organoid testing, Mike made a gift to expand Dana-Farber’s ovarian organoid program under the direction of Alan D’Andrea, MD, director of the Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers and the Center for DNA Damage and Repair. With this funding, D’Andrea and Hill will grow organoids for more patients and validate their efficacy.

“I wish Nancy and I had found this Dana-Farber program sooner,” said Mike. “I believe this research will help ovarian cancer patients for years to come.”

Arming “the next Nancy” with the right tools to defeat ovarian cancer

To create your Giving Page today! MyJimmyFundPage.org

To learn more, contact Hannah McCoy at (617) 632-6099 or Giving_Pages@dfci.harvard.edu

By starting a Giving Page, you can pay tribute to a loved one, encourage someone bravely battling cancer, commemorate your special life event, and more. Your personalized page is your opportunity to share your story, add photos, and invite family, friends, and colleagues to make charitable gifts that support an area important to you at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Jimmy Fund.
10% of all designated gifts supports our Faculty Research Fund to advance Dana-Farber’s research mission

Prostate Cancer Foundation funds the best research from the brightest investigators

The Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF) is passionate about supporting innovative research that will change the trajectory for prostate cancer patients. To date, PCF has awarded nearly $23 million to Dana-Farber researchers, including recent grants totaling $2.1 million.

Mark Pomerantz, MD, principal investigator in Dana-Farber’s Lank Center for Genitourinary Oncology, received a $1 million Movember Foundation – PCF Challenge Award to lead a multi-institutional team in identifying inherited genetic markers of disease aggressiveness. “Certain prostate cancers deemed high-risk are curable, while others prove lethal. There are no reliable indicators available at the time of diagnosis that can accurately categorize these cancers, but we hope to change that,” said Pomerantz. “With the support of the Movember Foundation and PCF, we will investigate a big question in inherited cancer risk and test the effectiveness of potential new screening and disease management recommendations for patients with high-risk localized prostate cancer.”

In addition, Dana-Farber postdoctoral fellows Saud AlDubayan, MD; Brandon Mahal, MD; Kent Mouw, MD, PhD; Anis Hamid, MBBS; and Sheng-Yu Ku, PhD, all received PCF Young Investigator Awards that provide project funding for early career researchers.

With the support of PCF, AlDubayan is taking a novel approach to identify heritable mutations that increase risk for prostate cancer. Said AlDubayan, “Delineating susceptibility in Arab prostate cancer patients—who are genetically distinct from the well-studied European population—will expand our understanding of prostate cancer’s genomic drivers and potentially identify new strategies for screening and prevention.”

“At PCF, we have always believed in rewarding innovative behavior. That means funding the most promising projects, from the most promising researchers.”

— Howard Soule, PhD, executive vice president and chief science officer, PCF

Malah will study prostate cancer in the African American population. By investigating associations between race, clinical factors, and genomic alterations, he seeks to develop a precision approach to risk prediction and treatment of prostate cancer. “PCF’s generous grant will help us address the inequities of high risk and poorer outcomes shouldered by African American men with the disease,” said Mahal.

Mouw is investigating the impact of alterations to DNA damage repair (DDR) genes in advanced prostate cancer. Said Mouw, “With the support of PCF, we aim to develop tools that can be used to assess the status of DDR genes in prostate cancer in real time to help inform and guide treatment decisions.”

Hamid works to identify genomic biomarkers in metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer that will help physicians match patients to treatments that will provide the most benefit, and Ku is studying how prostate cancer cells develop into aggressive, therapy-resistant neuroendocrine prostate cancer. He aims to identify novel treatment strategies that could reverse and prevent disease progression to this lethal state.

“At PCF, we have always believed in rewarding innovative behavior. That means funding the most promising projects, from the most promising researchers,” said Howard Soule, PhD, executive vice president and chief science officer of PCF. “We have great faith in the promise of Dana-Farber’s grant recipients and we look forward to seeing them unlock the mysteries of prostate cancer to bring new treatments to patients.”

Grants aim to improve treatments for cardiovascular disease

The American Heart Association has awarded two two-year grants totaling nearly $225,000 to support research by Dana-Farber scientists Yubi Sun, PhD, and Andras Boeszorenyi, PhD.

Sun studies a type of fat tissue known as beige fat, which protects animals from diet-induced obesity and other metabolic conditions linked to heart disease. The American Heart Association grant will enable him to explore some of the underlying molecular mechanisms responsible for beige fat’s protective effects, potentially revealing new targets for preventive or therapeutic interventions.

Boeszorenyi’s project focuses on designing agents that disrupt key molecular interactions involved in regulating fat and cholesterol metabolism. Dysregulated lipid metabolism is a hallmark of several maladies, including heart disease, diabetes, and cancer, and agents that reverse this dysregulation have enormous therapeutic potential. If successful, these projects could lead to the development of new treatments for cardiovascular disease, which is the leading cause of death worldwide.

“Research has always been at the heart of our efforts and is the very foundation of our lifesaving mission in the fight against heart disease and stroke,” said American Heart Association President Ivor Benjamin, MD. “We are pleased to support these investigators and look forward to potential breakthroughs in treating cardiovascular disease.”

The American Heart Association is the nation’s oldest and largest volunteer organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke. The association was founded by six cardiologists in 1924 and now includes more than 22.5 million supporters and volunteers.

Wan & Wu Family names space to honor husband and father

In April, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to celebrate the Wu & Wan Family’s generous gift to Dana-Farber, which named the check-out desk on the seventh floor of the Yawkey Center for Cancer Care. Xiaoming “Charmaine” Wan named the space in honor of her husband, Weikang “Kevin” Wu, who passed away from pancreatic cancer late last year. Several close relatives and friends gathered for the ribbon-cutting ceremony along with Kevin’s doctor, Marios Giannakis, MD, PhD. Giannakis offered special words and remembrances about Kevin and the entire family, thanking them for their generosity and dedication in tribute to Kevin.

Above, surrounded by friends and extended family, Charmaine (eighth from left), her children Iliesa (right of Charmaine) and Stephan (behind Iliesa), and Giannakis (far left) honor Kevin at the newly christened check-out desk.
Impact | SUMMER 2019

Saila Hanninen has got the power

Saila Hanninen is a 37-year-old ironman athlete, working with Waze/Google, who embodies “Jaksaa,” a word from her native Finland with no direct English translation, which is about having the strength to endure anything. Her true endurance was tested when, in 2017, this active nonsmoker was diagnosed with stage IV EGFR mutant lung cancer.

Saila chose Dana-Farber for treatment because of our mission of cancer research and care collaboratively bringing breakthroughs to the patient in real time. It was Pasi Janne, MD, director of the Carole M. and Philip L. Lowe Center for Thoracic Oncology and scientific director of the Robert and Renée Beller Center for Applied Cancer Science, who led the team that helped Saila overcome her cancer. And it was her Dana-Farber experience that motivated her to start her Jaksaa Fund, supporting Janne’s research.

Saila has combined her passion for athletics, business acumen, and deep respect for Janne to raise more than $130,000. Starting with a race at Google, Jaksaa is Saila’s fundraising machine. Saila ran the 2018 and 2019 Boston Marathons and will ride the Maratona dles Dolomites in Italy. Family and friends have run individual races and seized other opportunities to give to her fund. “Jaksaa has become my motto,” Saila says. “I am going to dream big because I don’t know any other way, and together we will fight until we win. Period.”

Aguilar provides vital funding for rare disease

Gillian Aguilar was shocked when her husband, Francis “Frank” Aguilar, was diagnosed with gallbladder cancer in 2009. Gallbladder cancer is a rare and aggressive disease that progresses without symptoms, meaning patients are commonly diagnosed when a cure is not possible.

“When he was first diagnosed with cancer, he was given a maximum of six months to live,” said Aguilar. “But he found an excellent doctor at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and lived for three and a half happy and productive years, teaching business in the extension program at Harvard and enjoying all his usual activities.”

Grateful for the extra three years she spent with Frank, and determined to ensure gallbladder cancer patients in the future have even more time with their families, Aguilar made a gift to Dana-Farber in her estate plans and accelerated a portion of the funds to make $100,000 immediately available to support gallbladder cancer research under the direction of Brian Wolpin, MD, MPH, director of the Gastrointestinal Cancer Center, co-director of the Pancreas and Biliary Tumor Center, and the Robert T. & Judith B. Hale Chair in Pancreatic Cancer at Dana-Farber.

“This gift will have an important impact in a greatly underfunded area of research,” said Wolpin. “We will use these funds to conduct studies of personalized treatment strategies in gallbladder cancer and to grow living models of patient tumors to help study and predict response to treatment.”

Patient-centric WMFC renews funding for Waldenström’s

The Waldenstrom’s Macroglobulinemia Foundation of Canada (WMFC) is working together with Dana-Farber to discover a cure.

Their renewed grant of $155,000 to Ruben Carrasco, MD, PhD, is advancing previous research, which enabled the study of a genetic mutation (MYD88 L265P) recurring in almost 100 percent of Waldenstrom’s macroglobulinemia patients. Few cancers other than Waldenstrom’s have a single amino acid substitution like MYD88 L265P that occurs in nearly all cases, making this mutation paradigmatic for study of a single causative mutation in oncogenesis.

Carrasco produced a unique model of this mutation and is further investigating the function of other Waldenstrom’s-associated genetic alterations for testing new therapies.

“At Dana-Farber, our long-term goal is to find treatments, cure patients,” said Carrasco. “It is incredible to have this sustained funding from the WMFC. We wouldn’t be at this stage in our research without their support.”

Waldenstrom’s is a rare indolent white blood cell cancer with an incidence rate of about five cases per million people each year in the U.S. and Canada, according to the WMFC. While currently incurable and with the cause still unknown, in most cases Waldenstrom’s can be treated, extending survival and improving quality of life.

“We are very excited to be sponsoring Dr. Carrasco’s research as we have in the past,” said Arlene Hinchcliffe, president of WMFC, which provides a forum of support for those living with Waldenstrom’s.

“The WMFC is dedicated to supporting patients in any way we can. What we all want is to find the cause, effective treatments, and ultimately a cure for this rare cancer.”

Ruben Carrasco, MD, PhD, is pursuing innovative research with support from the Waldenstrom’s Macroglobulinemia Foundation of Canada.
NOW–AUGUST 4
A Passion to Serve
Help Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund conquer cancer by visiting any of the Ninety Nine’s more than 105 locations in the Northeast this summer and contributing to the Jimmy Fund on your final bill. Contact David Giagrandi at 617-632-3804 or David_Giagrandi@dfci.harvard.edu.

AUGUST 18
New Balance Falmouth Road Race
Run this seven-mile road race on scenic Cape Cod to raise funds for Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund, or make a gift to support a runner. Visit RunDanaFarber.org or contact Emily Falconer at 617-632-1970 or Emily_Falconer@dfci.harvard.edu.

AUGUST 20–21
WEI/NESN Jimmy Fund Radio-Telethon
Presented by Ambeila Insurance Foundation
Tune in to this 36-hour broadcast from the Boston Red Sox’ historic Fenway Park, to hear inspiring stories and give generously. Visit JimmyFundRadioTelethon.org or contact Brian Lynch-Haddad at 617-632-5741 or JimmyFundRadioTelethon@dfci.harvard.edu.

AUGUST 21
Sunrise to Sunset Jimmy Fund Golf Tournament
Join us for this unique 36-hole golf fundraiser on The International Golf Club and Resort’s two premier courses, The Oaks and The Pines, and raise funds to support the Jimmy Fund and Dana-Farber. Visit SunriseToSunsetGolf.org or contact Victoria Fox at 617-632-4603 or SunriseToSunsetGolf@dfci.harvard.edu.

SEPTEMBER 7
Girl P.A.R.T.S. 5K Run/Walk for Ovarian Cancer
This inspiring event on Cape Cod supports research at Dana-Farber’s Susan F. Smith Center for Women’s Cancers, to advance pre-screening techniques that would detect ovarian cancer early and stop this devastating disease in its tracks. To register, give, or learn more visit girlparts.org.

SEPTEMBER 14
Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk
Presented by Hyundai
Registration is open! Walk the legendary Boston Marathon® course and raise funds to conquer all forms of cancer at Dana-Farber. Four routes make it easy and fun for everyone to walk—choose from a 5K (3.1 miles), 10K (6.2 miles), half marathon (13.1 miles), or the full 26.2-mile marathon route. Register today at JimmyFundWalk.org or contact Maggie Scanlon at 866-531-9255 or JimmyFundWalk@dfci.harvard.edu.

SEPTEMBER 21
B.A.A. Half Marathon®
Register now to join the official Dana-Farber team and raise funds to conquer cancer, or make a gift to support a runner. The first 100 runners to register before July 14 will receive a free B.A.A. Half Marathon entry (SBS value)! Visit RunDanaFarber.org or contact Ally Adolph at 617-632-1970 or OffRunners@dfci.harvard.edu.

OCTOBER 13
Kick for Dana-Farber
Empower cheerleading squads to conquer cancer through fundraising. Top fundraising squads win the chance to perform prior to a New England Patriots home game or participate in a cheer clinic with New England Patriots Cheerleaders. Visit CheerforDanaFarber.org or contact Sarah Eldredge at 617-582-8387 or Cheer@dfci.harvard.edu.

Impact | SUMMER 2019 | Volume 22 Issue 3
Impact is a newsletter of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Jimmy Fund published by the Division of Philanthropy. For questions, or to be removed from our mailing list, please contact: Dana-Farber Cancer Institute | The Jimmy Fund Division of Philanthropy 10 Brookline Place West, 5th Floor Boston, MA 02245-7226 617-632-3800 or 800-532-1000 or visit JimmyFund.org/g/opt-out Dana-Farber Cancer Institute provides expert, compassionate care to children and adults in its home to groundbreaking cancer discoveries. Since its founding in 1947, the Jimmy Fund has raised millions of dollars through thousands of community efforts to advance Dana-Farber’s pioneering research. Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund share patient stories which may include descriptions of actual medical results. Dana-Farber provides personalized care for each patient based on their unique needs and experiences with the goal of improving outcomes.

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Get involved, have fun, and beat cancer – visit JimmyFund.org

For more information on all Jimmy Fund and Dana-Farber events and programs, go to JimmyFund.org or Dana-Farber.org

10% of all designated gifts supports our Faculty Research Fund to advance Dana-Farber’s research mission

SUMMER 2019 | Impact 19
Earlier this year, patients in Dana-Farber’s Jimmy Fund Clinic like Petra, 16 (above, with her parents), were treated to a Girls Weekend in Boston filled with friendship, food, and shopping. The weekend, made possible by the Howard G. Gordon Family Teen Activities Fund established by Dana-Farber Trustee Michael Gordon and his wife, Christina, culminated in a professional photography session to celebrate the girls’ beauty and strength in the midst of treatment. The portraits were donated by photographer Douglas Quagliaroli.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

For more information on all Jimmy Fund and Dana-Farber events and programs, go to JimmyFund.org or Dana-Farber.org

**JULY 12**

**Swim Across America**
Dive into the Boston Harbor Islands Swim, a 22 mile relay-style open water swim that starts and finishes at Rowes Wharf in downtown Boston, and support quality-of-life clinical research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. To register, make a gift, or volunteer, visit SwimAcrossAmerica.org.

**NOW–JULY 16**

**Strike Out Cancer**
Give $1, $3, or $5 to Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund at participating New England Taco Bell and KFC locations and receive a baseball pin-up you can personalize and display. Contact Teresa Kane at 617-632-5420 or Teresa_Kane@dfc.harvard.edu.

**NOW–JULY 14**

**Grand Slam Savings for a Great Cause**
Give $1 at the register at Papa Gino’s and D’Angelo restaurants throughout New England and receive a coupon featuring Papa Gino’s, D’Angelo, and other retail discounts. Contact Mike O’Brien at 617-582-9675 or MichaelT_Obrien@dfc.harvard.edu.

**JULY 21**

**Jimmy Fund 5K & Fun Run**
Presented by Bayer
Get the whole family moving, have fun, and support the Jimmy Fund and Dana-Farber. Choose the 3.1-mile 5K or the half-mile Fun Run, then enjoy the post-race party, all at Millennium Park in West Roxbury, Mass. Contact Emily Falconer at 617-632-1970 or Emily_Falconer@dfc.harvard.edu.

**JULY 22–SEPTEMBER 1**

**A Chance for Kids & Families®**
Give $1 at the registers of participating Burger King® and Valvoline Instant Oil Change® locations and receive a protection card with a guaranteed prize, proving everyone’s a winner when you support Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund. Contact Mike O’Brien at 617-582-9675 or MichaelT_Obrien@dfc.harvard.edu.

**JULY 24–AUGUST 13**

**Strike Out Cancer**
Give $1, $3, or $5 to Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund at participating Paper Store locations and receive a baseball pin-up you can personalize and display. Contact Teresa Kane at 617-632-5420 or Teresa_Kane@dfc.harvard.edu.

**AUGUST 3–4**

**Pan-Mass Challenge**
Presented by New Balance and Red Sox Foundation
The PMC is celebrating its 40th year! Ride, volunteer, or give to help raise $60,000,000 for Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund. 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar directly supports research and patient care. NEW this year is the PMC Sunday Funday celebration at the finish line at Babson College on Aug. 4. Select the 25- or 50-mile route and celebrate your accomplishments with live music, food trucks, corn hole, a beer garden, and more. For more information or to register, visit PMC.org.

**NOW–AUGUST 31**

**Jimmy Fund Little League**
Presented by Extra Innings and Franklin Sports
Little League teams throughout New England can fundraise to strike out cancer while continuing their season of play. Contact Jonathan Clark at 617-632-5881 or visit JimmyFundLittleLeague.org.

FOR MORE EXCITING EVENTS GO TO PAGE 19!